SEVENTH

ANNUAL REPORT

NOVA SCOTIA POLICE COMMISSION

1983

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia
Police Commission

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The Honourable Ronald C. Giffin, Q.C.
Attorney General, Province of Nova Scotia
Attorney General's Department
Post Office Box 7
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Dear Mr. Minister,

The Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Police Commission for the calendar year 1983 is submitted as required by Section 10 of the Police Act of Nova Scotia.

Yours very truly,

Harry A. Porter,
Chairman

HAP/pvh

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SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE NOVA SCOTIA POLICE COMMISSION

1983

INTRODUCTION

The Police Act of Nova Scotia establishing the Nova Scotia Police Commission was proclaimed in October of 1976. The Nova Scotia Police Commission is responsible under the provisions of the Police Act for the promotion of the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal police services in the Province and for the promotion of improvement in relationships between the public and the police.

The Act requires the Commission to hear and determine appeals on disciplinary penalties imposed or ordered by Chiefs of Police, Boards of Police Commissioners and Councils and appeals on complaints against police.

When requested by a Board of Police Commissioners or directed by the Attorney General, the Nova Scotia Police Commission is required by the Police Act to inquire into the conduct of or the performance of duty of any member of a municipal police force, the administration of any police force, the system of policing in any municipality, or the police needs of a municipality.

Upon request, the Act further provides for the appointment of special constables and for the approval of appointments of by-law enforcement officers by the Attorney General. The Minister has delegated this authority to the Nova Scotia Police Commission for the former and to the Chairman, Nova Scotia Police Commission for the latter category.

Under the Private Investigators and Private Guards Act the Commission is also responsible for the licensing of companies which provide investigators, armed guards and/or guards for hire, for the licensing of individuals, and for the supervision of the industry including the investigation of complaints against companies and individuals.

Under the Police Services Act the Commission has a responsibility to the Attorney General for recommending the appointment or re-appointment of Provincial Civil Constables and investigating complaints made about their conduct.

CHAIRMAN'S REVIEW

OF THE

HIGHLIGHTS OF 1983

In 1983, the Nova Scotia Police Commission and its staff have had the busiest year since the formation of the Commission in 1976. This has been mainly due to three inquiries which will be commented on later in this review and preliminary investigations into two other possible inquiries. The staff of the Commission have been kept so busy with these inquiries that they have had to forego many of their periodic visits to municipal police forces. As a result, the work of the Commission to assist police departments to upgrade the quality of police services being provided to the public in the three cities and twenty-three towns with municipal police forces has not been up to the standard of last year. Nevertheless, this work has been carried out as much as the press of these duties has permitted. In 1984, the challenge to the Commission is to re-establish the close relationship which is so meaningful with the departments across Nova Scotia.

The Lieutenant Governor graciously consented to again conduct an investiture at which serving municipal police officers were presented with police long service medals. In this instance, on May 11, 1983, thirteen officers were presented with the medal or a bar to it. In August 1983, Her Majesty the Queen authorized a Police Exemplary Service Medal as a national honour. This medal replaces the police long service medal which was issued under the auspices of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

In January 1983, the three Members of the Commission met with Members of Boards of Police Commissioners, the Chiefs of Police and Police Union representatives of Cape Breton in three separate meetings. This was an opportunity for the two new members of the Commission to become acquainted with the police community and their governing authorities. Similar meetings were held with the four municipal departments in Pictou County in May.

In March 1983, the Commission completed and sent to the Chairman of the Boards of Police Commissioners an assessment of the police services in the Town of Louisbourg. An assessment of the police services of the Town of New Glasgow was begun in late November.

In 1983, Advanced Driver Training Courses were continued at Canadian Forces Base SHEARWATER. A total of 72 police officers from the Halifax and Dartmouth departments, from Ports Canada Police and from the Military Police have received this training. It is hoped that other municipal departments will soon take advantage of this valuable training.

The Commission continues to be requested to conduct selection boards for the position of Chief of Police, promotional routines for officers and non-commissioned officers and selection routines for recruit constables. In 1983, there were one selection board for Chief of Police, three promotional routines and one selection routine for a recruit constable.

The Commission continues to urge municipal police departments to take advantage of courses at the Canadian Police College, the Atlantic Police Academy, and at other training establishments; and courses given by the R.C.M.P. In 1983, 46 percent of the departments sent candidates to courses at the Canadian Police College and 50 percent at the Atlantic Police Academy. This is a significant improvement over 1982 and might have been even better if the Canadian Police College, because of financial restraint, had not cancelled a number of courses.

Three inquiries under Section 9 of the Police Act were begun in 1983. The most comprehensive, a public inquiry into the Kentville Police Department and its Members, has occupied a great deal of time and effort. At year end, the Commission had conducted 19 days of hearing witnesses. On many days, the hearings began at 9:00 a.m. and continued until 10:00 p.m. This inquiry was requested by the Kentville Board of Police Commissioners. A public inquiry into an incident in which a prisoner was injured while in the custody of the Sydney Police Department was completed and a report submitted to the Attorney General in January 1984. An inquiry into a complaint against members of the Louisbourg Police Department is not yet complete.

The number of companies licensed to provide private investigators and private guards for hire and of individuals licensed for this industry continues to increase. In 1983, regulations were introduced to establish a procedure for qualifying persons who are private guards to have their licenses endorsed as an "Armed Guard". These persons must take a course and an examination on the law as it applies to an armed guard and must qualify to a minimum standard

on a firing range. With regard to the latter they must requalify annually. All armed guards in Nova Scotia have now met these qualifications.

The category of "guard dog handler" has also been introduced as well as a system for licensing "guard dogs".

The year 1983 has been a challenging one for the Nova Scotia Police Commission as this review and the catalogue of activities later in this report will show. For the first time we have had to undertake a number of inquiries in a single year. Although the Commission has not yet been able to obtain approval for a standard municipal police training plan, there has been an increased interest in training. This is an encouraging sign as it is the key to major advances in the upgrading of municipal police services in Nova Scotia.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

AS OF

DECEMBER 31, 1983

Harry A. Porter	Chairman and full time Member appointed by Order-in-Council April 1, 1976 for ten years.
Neil G. Price	Part time Member, appointed on the 18th November, 1982 for a two year term, residing in Wolfville, Nova Scotia.
Murray J. Ritch	Part time Member, appointed 7th December, 1982 for a two year term, residing in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

STAFF OF THE COMMISSION

AS OF

DECEMBER 31, 1983

Position Vacant	Executive Director
Ronald G. Bedgood	Director of Personnel Development Advisor for the Cape Breton area. He is a civil servant and retired from the Halifax Police Department.
George A. Smith	Director of Police Research and Statistics and Advisor for Annapolis Valley and South Shore areas. He is a civil servant and retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.
J. Edward McNeill	Director and Inspector of Security Services and Advisor for Colchester, Pictou and Cumberland areas. He is a civil servant and retired from the Sydney Police Department.
Administrative Secretaries:	
Carmen Matte	Secretary to the Commission.
Paulette Hebert	Secretary to the Directors.

ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Nova Scotia Police Commission offices are located on the 10th floor, Queen Square, 45 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION:

The Nova Scotia Police Commission has duties under three Provincial Statutes:

- Police Act - Chapter 9, Statutes of Nova Scotia 1974;

- Private Investigators and Private Guards Act, Chapter 14, Statutes of Nova Scotia 1972;

- Police Services Act, Chapter 17 (Sections 8-11) Statutes of Nova Scotia 1969.

UPGRADING OF MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES IN NOVA SCOTIA:

The Province of Nova Scotia has 26 Municipal Police Forces with an authorized strength of approximately 731 persons. A listing of municipal police departments is attached as Appendix "B".

The Nova Scotia Police Commission's responsibility for promoting the upgrading of municipal police services is progressing in the following areas:

UPGRADING OF MUNICIPAL POLICE SERVICES IN NOVA SCOTIA CONT'D:

1) Advice and assistance to Boards of Police Commissioners, and Chiefs of Police on the modern management and operation of police departments.

2) Assessments of Police Departments - To date twelve assessments and one evaluation of a previous assessment have been completed, and a thirteenth assessment is in progress. These were undertaken at the request of municipal authorities.

3) Promotional Routine, Interview Boards - The Nova Scotia Police Commission has now been involved in a total of eleven Interview Boards for the position of Chief of Police and in fifteen Promotional Routines for other ranks within municipal police departments. A standard promotional routine system has been developed by the Commission and is used when conducting routines.

4) A Standard Municipal Police Training Plan for Nova Scotia - The Nova Scotia Police Commission is responsible for a progressive improvement and upgrading of the competence and skills of municipal police officers of all ranks. To that end, a standard minimum municipal police compulsory training plan has been developed and was placed before the Policy Board.

5) Training of Municipal Police Personnel at the Canadian Police College and Atlantic Police Academy - The Nova Scotia Police Commission is responsible for co-ordinating and arranging for the selection of candidates to attend courses at the Canadian Police College in Ottawa, the Atlantic Police Academy in Charlottetown and

other training institutions for all Municipal Police Departments. Appendix "C" lists the number of courses taken in 1983 and their subject matter.

PUBLIC COMPLAINTS AND INTERNAL DISCIPLINE:

A) Public Complaints Against Police - In 1983, a total of 61 public complaints were made to the 26 Municipal Police Departments with regard to actions by their personnel. Of these 61 complaints a total of 29 were either informally resolved or not proceeded with by the citizen. Of the remainder, 21 were found after investigation to be unsubstantiated and 11 resulted in disciplinary action being taken.

B) Internal Discipline - In 1983 the Municipal Police Departments reported that a total of 55 internal disciplinary matters were investigated. Of these, disciplinary action was taken in 43 cases, and in 7 cases no action was taken. There are 5 cases pending.

HEARING AND DISPOSING OF APPEALS:

Under the Police Act and Regulations made under the Act, the Commission is required to hear and dispose of appeals from two sources.

A) Public Complaints Against Police - Members of the public dissatisfied with the handling and disposition of their complaints against police at other levels may appeal to the Nova Scotia Police Commission.

B) Members of Police Forces Appealing Disciplinary Matters - Police members alleged to have committed disciplinary defaults of the Code of Discipline of the Regulations made under the Police Act may appeal the decision and/or the punishment awarded within their department to their Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners, thence to their Councils, and finally to the Nova Scotia Police Commission.

INVESTIGATIONS AND PUBLIC INQUIRIES:

In 1983, a number of Investigations and Public Inquiries were conducted by the Nova Scotia Police Commission.

The Kentville Municipal Board of Police Commissioners requested that the Nova Scotia Police Commission conduct a Public Inquiry into the Kentville Police Department and a review of all matters pertaining to the Department including personnel requirements. At year end, the Commission had conducted 19 days of hearing witnesses and will probably need at least two days to complete the hearing of witnesses.

As the result of the alleged misconduct of one of the members of the Springhill Police Department, the Municipal Board of Police Commissioners requested that the Nova Scotia Police Commission investigate and inquire into the matter. Prior to the completion of the investigation the Municipal Board withdrew their request.

As the result of a complaint, the Attorney General directed the Nova Scotia Police Commission to inquire into the actions of certain members of the Halifax Police Department. Part of the preliminary investigation was done and will continue following the outcome of a criminal charge against one of the officers involved.

The Attorney General directed the Nova Scotia Police Commission to inquire into a complaint against the Sydney Police Department in relation to injuries received by a prisoner while in the cells of the Department. The hearing of witnesses and the preparation of briefs by Counsels was completed in December 1983. A report was submitted to the Attorney General in January 1984.

The Municipal Board of Police Commissioners of Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, requested the Nova Scotia Police Commission to investigate and inquire into a citizen's complaint against members of the Louisbourg Police Department. The initial investigation is complete and a private inquiry into the complaint was held in early January 1984.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES:

A list of activities of the members and staff of the Nova Scotia Police Commission for 1983 is attached as Appendix "A".

APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL CONSTABLES AND BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS:

At present 460 persons hold appointments as special constables. Some of these persons perform duties for the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, the Security Branch of the Cape Breton Development Corporation, Federal Fisheries Department, the Department of Lands and Forests, the Department of Tourism, Bowaters Mersey Corporation and three towns that are policed by the R.C.M.P.; or are serving as members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Auxiliary Police.

Appointments of 73 By-Law Enforcement Officers have been approved as of December 31, 1983.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS AND PRIVATE GUARDS ACT:

As of December 31, 1983, 46 companies were licensed in Nova Scotia to provide private investigators and private guards for hire, and a total of approximately 1,350 persons were holding licenses for this purpose issued by the Commission.

During the fiscal year 1983/84 up to 31 January, 1984 the Nova Scotia Police Commission collected $42,420.00 from companies and individuals licensed under the provisions of the Private Investigators and Private Guards Act.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS AND PRIVATE GUARDS ACT REGULATIONS:

Amendments to the regulations made pursuant to the Private Investigators and Private Guards Act became effective in August 1983. Two of the amendments are requiring considerable time and effort to implement:

Armed Guards - The regulations now provide that before a person can act as an armed guard he must be in possession of a valid license to act as a Private Guard, endorsed "Armed Guard".

The Nova Scotia Police Commission, in co-operation with representatives from the Atlantic Marksman Association, Dartmouth, and the Metro Gun Club, Sydney, developed a course which was considered a minimum standard. Everyone seeking an endorsement to a private guard license is required to qualify. There are no exceptions.

The second part of the process was a six hour lecture and exam on the law as it applies to an armed guard. This was developed by Mr. Brian Williston, Assistant Crown Counsel, Sydney and is given to the applicants in Cape Breton. This process was passed on to Mr. Brian Norton, Department of Attorney General, who lectured the Metro area applicants at the Adult Vocational Training School, Halifax.

All costs for this training and qualifying were borne by the applicant or his firm.

Guard Dog Licensing - It was decided to forgo this until the time for relicensing April 1, 1984, owing to the length of time required to obtain tags, licenses, and other materials. Everything is now in readiness for April 1, 1984.

POLICE SERVICES ACT:

At present there are 36 persons holding appointments as Provincial Civil Constables under the provisions of this Act.

NOVA SCOTIA POLICE COMMISSION

ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 1, 1983 - DECEMBER 31, 1983

- Meetings of the Nova Scotia Police Commission 8
- Attendance at Symposium of Provincial Police Commissions held in Edmonton, Alberta 1
- Meetings with other Provincial or Federal Government Departments 17
- Staff Meetings with Chairman and/or Nova Scotia Police Commission 15
- Meetings with University officials including Training 6
- Assistance to various Foundations, Societies, Commissions, Consultants and the Press, etc..... On Going
- Provided staff lectures for Courses 4

ASSISTANCE TO POLICE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES

- Meetings or visits with Mayors, Councils, Chairmen and Municipal Boards of Police Commissioners 16
- Selection Boards conducted for appointments of Chief of Police 1
- Conducting of Promotional Routines 3
- Recruit selection assistance 1
- Assessments of Police Departments completed 1
- Assessments of Police Departments not completed 1

APPENDIX "A"
Page 2 of 3.

ACTIVITIES CONCERNING POLICE DEPARTMENTS

- Visits to Municipal Police Departments by Staff Advisors 94

- Meetings or Visits to Federal or other Police Agencies 8

- Arrangements made with His Honour the Lieutenant Governor for Investitures of Police Long Service Medals & Bars, Investitures conducted..... 1

ACTIVITIES CONCERNING POLICE TRAINING

Co-ordinating of the Training of Municipal Police and Fire Services at the Canadian Police College, Atlantic Police Academy, R.C.M.P. Breathalyzer Training Course and at other training facilities:-

- Canadian Police College Advisory Council Meetings.... 1

- Atlantic Police Academy Advisory Council Meetings.... 2

- Meetings with Police Chiefs and other Department Officials regarding Training 12

- Attendance at Police Educators Conference and other Training Courses or Seminars by Staff Members..... 12

- Meetings with Armed Forces Officials regarding planning for Driver Training 1

COMPLAINTS OR OTHER DISCIPLINE MATTERS

- Investigations (not including Private Investigators or Private Guards) 6
- Public Inquiries (Kentville & Sydney)..... 2
- Instruction and Advice to Municipal Police Departments in relation to procedures pertaining to the Nova Scotia Police Act and Regulations ..... Continuous

ACTIVITIES CONCERNING

POLICE ASSOCIATIONS AND UNIONS

- Meetings with Nova Scotia Chiefs of Police Association 5
- Attendance at the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Meeting 1
- Meetings or Visits with officials and Members of Canadian Union of Public Employees 2
- Meetings or visits with officials and Members of the Police Association of Nova Scotia 2

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS AND PRIVATE GUARDS

- Investigations of complaints against Private Investigators and/or Private Guards including companies employing same 12
- Meetings and visits to companies providing Private Guard, Investigators and Provincial Civil Constables 13
- Other meetings including lectures, police training courses, armed guard training courses, and assistance to other various affected groups..... 14

APPENDIX "B"

MUNICIPAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1983

DEPARTMENT	REGULAR POLICE STRENGTH	POPULATION	POLICE PER 1,000 POPULATION
Amherst	18	9,684	1.85
Annapolis Royal	3	631	4.75
Bedford	13	6,777	1.92
Berwick	5	1,699	2.94
Bridgewater	15	6,669	2.24
Dartmouth	130	62,277	2.08
Dominion	5	2,856	1.75
Hantsport	2	1,395	1.43
Glace Bay	37	21,466	1.72
Halifax	277	114,594	2.41
Kentville	12	4,974	2.41
Louisbourg	3	1,410	2.13
Lunenburg	7	3,014	2.32
Mahone Bay	3	1,228	2.44
Middleton	6	1,834	3.27
New Glasgow	23	10,464	2.20
New Waterford	14	8,801	1.59
North Sydney	10	7,820	1.28
Springhill	10	4,896	2.04
Stellarton	9	5,435	1.66
Sydney	69	29,444	2.34
Sydney Mines	14	8,501	1.65
Trenton	8	3,154	2.54
Truro	26	12,552	2.07
Westville	6	4,522	1.33
Wolfville	6	3,235	1.85
	731		

TOTAL 26 DEPARTMENTS

NOTE: Population figures are as per 1981 census.

APPENDIX "C"
Page 1 of 4.

COURSES ATTENDED

1983

CANADIAN POLICE COLLEGE

Technical Traffic Accident Investigation	1
Polygraph Examiners	1
Perspectives in Police Management	2
Crisis & Conflict Intervention	2
Executive Development	2
Senior Police Administration	3
Instructional Techniques	1
Effective Presentation	3
Drug Investigational Techniques	4
Police Explosives Techniques Validation	1
Police Explosives Techniques	1
Commanders Hostage/Barricaded Persons.....	2
Negotiators Hostage/Barricaded Persons	4
Identification Methods & Techniques	1
Major Crime	2
Intelligence Analysis	1

A TOTAL OF 31 PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS: TOTAL OF 12 DEPARTMENTS

- Amherst
- Bridgewater
- Dartmouth
- Halifax
- Kentville
- Lunenburg
- Middleton
- New Glasgow
- Springhill
- Sydney
- Sydney Mines
- Truro

ATLANTIC POLICE ACADEMY

COURSES ATTENDED 1983

Advanced Police Science	5
Arson Investigators	14
Crisis Intervention	12
General Police Science & Radar	24
Interviewing & Interrogation	5
Introduction to Drug Enforcement	8
Police Supervision	9
Traffic Investigation	4
Youth Officers Course	1
TOTAL	82

PARTICIPATING DEPARTMENTS

Amherst
Bedford
Bridgewater
Dartmouth
Lunenburg
Middleton
New Glasgow

TOTAL OF 13 DEPARTMENTS

North Sydney
Stellarton
Sydney
Trenton
Truro
Wolfville

Arrangements were made by the Nova Scotia Police Commission to permit 13 members of Fire Departments in Nova Scotia to attend the Arson Investigation Course.

BREATHALYZER TRAINING

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police conduct Breathalyzer Training at Debert, Nova Scotia and they arrange with the Nova Scotia Police Commission for a survey to be taken of the requirements of the 26 Municipal Police Departments in the Province.

From the survey the number of courses to be given is determined and allocations are given to the various departments.

In 1983, five courses were conducted and a total of 19 municipal police officers were given this training. Listed below are the Departments involved and the number of personnel from each Department.

Amherst	1	Kentville	1
Berwick	2	New Glasgow	1
Bedford	1	New Waterford	1
Bridgewater	1	North Sydney	1
Dartmouth	3	Sydney	1
Glace Bay	1	Stellarton	1
Halifax	3	Wolfville	1

TRAINING IN THE CORRECT USE OF SENSORY IRRITANT AEROSOL WEAPONS

The Nova Scotia Police Commission in co-operation with the Chief of Police in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, arranged for a number of courses in the proper use of this weapon. These courses were conducted at various locations throughout the Province.

In 1983, a total of 192 police personnel from 13 municipal police departments took this training.

ADVANCED DRIVER TRAINING PROGRAM

Through the efforts of the Nova Scotia Police Commission, the use of an area of the tarmac at C.F.B. SHEARWATER was obtained and Advanced Driver Training has been carried out at this location for the past two years, under the direction of the training division of the Halifax Police Department.

The City of Dartmouth Police Department has now become involved as well as Ports Canada and the Military Police. As this training continues it is expected that other municipal police departments from around the Province will become involved. To the end of December 1983, 74 officers have been trained.

ONTARIO POLICE COLLEGE

Through the co-operation of the Director of the Ontario Police College, a Dartmouth Police Department Detective attended a Fraud Investigator's Course at the College. He will be returning for the second phase of this training in 1984.

This is the second occasion that police personnel from Nova Scotia have been granted permission to attend the College. The Town of Kentville Police Department have had one of their members attend the College on a previous occasion.

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL